

ANN OLSON FJELD

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Anna Olson Fjeld, the daughter of Andrew Olson and Christi Johanson, was born in Ostegoard, Warmeland, Sweden, April 17, 1825. Her father was a tiller of the soil and a highly respected citizen of the little community and while the family did not live in luxury, by thrift and industry they were able to secure the common necessities of life.

As there were no schools in the country, the children were deprived the opportunities of book learning, but instead were taught to do all things necessary for their own sustenance and comfort. In this way Anna was taught to card, spin, knit, weave, sew, and make butter and cheese.

At the age of twenty-six she went to Fredrickstad, Norway, to weave, and continued this occupation with occasional visits home in the winter for eight years. The second year of her stay in Fredrickstad she lived with the family of Emil Larson, who were Mormons, and a number of Mormon elders were also boarding there.

At first she was very much prejudiced against this sect but after coming in contact with them and seeing their manner of living she began an earnest investigation, with the result that she was thoroughly convinced of the truth of the gospel as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in October, 1852, she was baptized by John Johanson.

In speaking of this event she says: "I felt very happy in the knowledge that I had accepted the everlasting gospel and about a month after my baptism determined to go home and tell my mother and brothers the wonderful news that the gospel which Jesus taught had been restored in our day. To my surprise and sorrow my folks became very bitter in their feelings toward me and even my dear old mother, who was rather hasty tempered, threatened to strike me with a stick for saying my

prayers. My brothers, after trying in vain to convince me that I was wrong, took me to the priest but he would have nothing to do with me, so I was taken to the Provost. The Provost and I had a long discussion, but as I had studied the Bible considerably, I was able to defend myself on every point. He finally told me I had better go to the Mormons, as he was sure that I was lost. My brother, who was with me and heard the discussion, wept bitterly,"

In 1860 Anna emigrated to Utah in the same company as Carl J. E. Fjeld, whom she afterward married. She came to Lehi in 1862 and immediately commenced weaving for a livelihood. Times were hard and the people were poor, but clothing being one of the absolute necessities, she was able to get sufficient employment to maintain herself and only son without being a burden to her husband. She was very devoted to her religion and lived the life of a true and faithful Latter-day Saint to the time of her death, which occurred August 5, 1903.